

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA
SESQUICENTENNIAL

MAY FIRST
1562 ♣ 2012

450 years of french history in

Florida

Welcome on the Water

Monday, April 30, 2012

Jacksonville will commemorate our Sesquicentennial on May 1, the 450th anniversary of French Huguenot Captain Jean Ribault's arrival at the St. Johns River, which he named the River of May, and which we still reference today with the name "Mayport." As part of the commemorative activities, the French Navy is sending two tall sailing ships: the Etoile and the Belle Poule. We invite you to join in welcoming these ships to Jacksonville on Monday, April 30, in commemorating 450 years of French history in Florida!

The ships are scheduled to depart Mayport Naval Station the morning of Monday, April 30, and sail up the St. Johns River to moor near Jacksonville Landing around noon. We are hoping to welcome the tall ships in grand style; Fort Caroline is planning a cannon salute as they pass the National Park, and we invite those along the river to "wave them in" and for boats of all sizes to "sound their horns" as the flotilla makes its way to Downtown. We intend to provide other ships with the chance to participate as well, and for amateur photographers and videographers to be able to share their images online. To upload the name and details of your vessel or for information on sharing your photos and video from the day, please visit www.Commemorate450.coj.net

The French Navy's tall ships will be open for free public tours until their departure the morning of May 2nd. At that time we also welcome the maritime community to send them off with a proper farewell!

Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown invites you and your family to visit www.Commemorate450.coj.net to review and note the many commemorative activities taking place the days surrounding May 1. The site also provides a listing of historical resources and links to information pertaining to Ribault's arrival in 1562, to help inform and educate readers on our unique history.